

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A semiconductor device includes a protection circuit protecting a semiconductor integrated circuit from electrostatic discharge, the protection circuit has a detection circuit detecting the electrostatic discharge, a trigger circuit generating a trigger signal based on the output signal of the detection circuit, and a thyristor having a PNP transistor and an NPN transistor, and operating by the trigger signal from the trigger circuit, the PNP transistor having an emitter connected to a first terminal of the semiconductor device, the NPN transistor having an emitter connected to a second terminal of the semiconductor device and a collector connected to base of the PNP transistor. The protection circuit further has a switching element controlling the connected between the PNP and NPN transistors in accordance with the output signal of the detection circuit.